

REMARKS*Priority Document*

Applicant submits herewith a certified copy of the priority document (GB 0328948.5) for the present application to satisfy the requirements of 35 USC 119(b). In the event that any fees are associated with this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct such fee amounts from Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Summary of Claim Amendments

The limitations of Claim 8 (identified in the Office Action as allowable) have been incorporated into independent Claims 2 and 9. Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claim 12 has been amended to positively recite activation of the polyaramid textile with an epoxy compound, followed by activation with plasma and dipping in an organosilane.

Rejection under 35 USC 103

Claims 2-7, 9-11, and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,705,445 to CHIKARAISHI et al., in view of US Patent 5,411,638 to BERNARD.

The argument presented by the Office in making this rejection is essentially as follows:

CHIKARAISHI teaches:

- a woven fabric web having a coating layer wherein the coating layer is formed from an aqueous emulsion comprising an organopolysiloxane of formula (I)(a). The coating layer also comprises an alkoxy silane compound (d). The coating layer can comprise an alkoxy silane compound having at least one epoxy group or amino group (e).
- suitable groups useful in the organopolysiloxane of formula (I)(a). Suitable groups include vinyl, epoxy, and methacryl.

- exemplary alkoxy silane compounds including trimethoxy silane compounds (d).
- exemplary compounds of component (e), including examples in which the epoxy compound is a trimethoxy silane compound.
- that the material of the fabric is not particularly limited and that aramid fibers in the form of filaments, staple, or combination thereof is preferred.
- that methods for coating the fabric are not particularly limited, and that dipping is a coating method.

CHIKARAISHI does not teach pre-treatment of the fabric prior to application of the coating with either a plasma or epoxy compound. CHIKARAISHI, however, does teach the use of epoxy compounds, but the epoxy-containing compounds can be incorporated into one or more of the components of the aqueous emulsion.

BERNARD teaches:

- that it is an objective to provide a method for treating aramid fiber to improve its adhesion to rubber.
- that the aramid filament is subject to plasma treatment followed by coating baths.
- that the first bath is an epoxy resin bath.
- that the aramid fiber is preferably poly(paraphenylene terephthalamide). Additionally, the fibers are monofilaments formed into a cord.
- that fibers that are treated with plasma exhibit improved tear properties over non-plasma treated fibers.
- that the gas used for plasma treatment is not critical and that treatment at atmospheric pressure may be used.

Motivation to combine: It would have been obvious to use the preferred polyaramid fiber of BERNARD coupled with the plasma treatment of BERNARD to improve the adhesion of the silicone coating composition of CHIKARAISHI in order to produce a material to form a more reliable air bag. Additionally, it would have been obvious to select from the preferred groups of CHIKARAISHI groups such as acryloxy(methacryl), vinyl, epoxy, and amino for the groups of the components of the coating in order to improve the coating properties as taught by

CHIKARAISHI. Also, it would have been obvious to perform the pre-treatment of BERNARD to the fabric of CHIKARAISHI in the order taught by BERNARD (provide fabric, plasma treatment, dipping) in order to achieve improved adhesion of the coating of CHIKARAISHI applied by a dipping step as taught as suitable by CHIKARAISHI.

Applicants have amended Claims 2 and 9 to include the limitations of previous Claim 8, which was indicated in the Office Action as being allowable.

Neither CHIKARAISHI nor BERNARD teaches the use of a weft inserted warp knit fabric having aramid weft and/or warp yarns. Likewise, nothing in either of the references suggests or provides any motivation for using such a fabric construction.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the references, when combined, must provide a teaching of all of the limitations of Applicant's claims. In this instance, the references do not teach the limitation of a weft inserted warp knit construction.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that the rejection has been traversed and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

* * *

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims stand in condition for allowance.

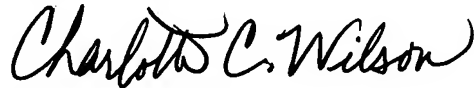
Should any issues remain after consideration of these Amendments and Remarks, the Examiner is invited and earnestly encouraged to telephone the undersigned in the hope that any such issue may be promptly and satisfactorily resolved.

It is believed that this response is being timely filed and, as such, that no fees are owed with this submission. In the event that there are fees associated with the submission of these papers (including extension of time fees), authorization is hereby provided to withdraw such fees from Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

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Respectfully submitted,



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